

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /069 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:LAB

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

P:MDEFORD

NEA:ARDA

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

NEA/IRN:CWNAAS

INR/DFR/RGE:RDHODGSON

DOD/ISA:JNOYES (SUBS)

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

----- 042408

R 270242Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NEAR EAST DIP POSTS INFORM CONSULS

E.O11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IR, SA

SUBJECT: IRANIAN COMPLAINT OVER TERMINOLOGY OF PERSIAN
GULF

1. EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR WROTE TO
THE SECRETARY TO PROTEST A REFERENCE IN A PUBLICATION BY AN
AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO THE BODY OF WATER
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WHICH WE REFER TO AS THE PERSIAN GULF. UPON EXAMINATION,

IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE DOD AGENCY HAD REFERRED IN ITS PUBLICATION TO THE "ARABIAN GULF".

2. THE OFFICIAL US POSITION, AS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES, IS THAT "PERSIAN GULF" IS THE CONVENTIONAL AND PROPER TERMINOLOGY FOR THE BODY OF WATER IN QUESTION. THIS IS THE ONLY TERM WHICH IS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AND AUTHORIZED BY THE US GOVERNMENT. WE ARE AWARE THAT, ON OCCASION, SOME US OFFICIALS MAY REFER INFORMALLY TO THE BODY SIMPLY AS "THE GULF", PARTICULARLY IN ORAL USAGE. BUT THERE IS NO NEED OR JUSTIFICATION FOR OUR OFFICIALS TO CALL IT THE "ARABIAN GULF" OR "ARAB GULF".

3. ACTING SECRETARY SISCO RESPONDED TO THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ON JANUARY 23, STATING THAT THE IMPROPER

REFERENCE IN THE PUBLICATION CITED BY THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE CORRECTED, AND THAT OUR OFFICIALS WOULD BE REMINDED OF THE PROPER TERMINOLOGY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, PERSIAN GULF, ARABIAN GULF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE019825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SSOBER:LAB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760030-0314
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760117/aaaaaoir.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN COMPLAINT OVER TERMINOLOGY OF PERSIAN GULF
TAGS: PFOR, IR, SA, US, DOD
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006